Notes on the Quenda, *Isoodon obesulus.*—Where I live, in the Darling Range near Mundaring Weir, Quendas inhabit the thick vegetation along watercourses. Where there is permanent water or a layer of saturated soil, usually 5 to 15 metres in width, *Lepidospermum tetraquetrum* and *Agonis linearifolia* are the dominant constituents of a closed canopy 3 or more metres high. This is interspersed with taller trees of *Banksia littoralis, Melaleuca parviflora* and *Eucalyptus patens.* Along the fringes where water is less permanent the canopy is lower and less closed; the *Lepidospermum* and *Agonis* are less frequent; there are numerous *Xanthorrhoea preissii, Mirbelia dilatata,* and *Acacia alata,* and a lesser number of braeken *(Pteridium aquilinum), Macrozamia reidlei* and *Albizzia distachya.* This formation quickly gives way to more sclerophyllous and very open shrubbery characteristic of the dry lateritic slopes of the *E. marginata* and *E. calophylla* forest. This latter shrubbery, together with its component ground flora, is much more diverse than that along the watercourses. The type of vegetation in the area discussed is very similar to that at Jarrahdale which has been described by G. M. Storr *(J. Royal Soc. of Western Australia,* 47 (1), 1964: 1-2).

In the areas of perpetual shade along the streams there is abundant litter; the soil remains fairly moist, and, during the summer, temperatures are lower than in more exposed areas. It is in these areas that Quendas usually build their nests, often on slight mounds which in some cases may be caused from decaying vegetation of previous nests. Some nests are built partly below ground and consist of a circular bowl-like depression between 24 and 30 cm across and about 15 cm deep, thickly lined and roofed over with dead leaves and rushes with an entrance on one side up to 15 cm wide. Occupied nests are usually dry inside although the outside litter may be quite soggy.

I have not determined whether both sexes inhabit nests or which merely shelter under growing vegetation. Quendas, particularly juveniles, are fairly active during the day becoming more active at dusk. At night they wander considerable distances into the open sclerophyll forest.

In winter Quendas sometimes move from ground that has become waterlogged to higher areas and may shelter under *Xanthorrhoea* and *Macrozamia.* I have never seen nests built away from creeks or swamps.

When the dense vegetation and litter along the watercourses has been destroyed by fires, Quendas often seek refuge in unused rabbit warrens or hollows from fallen trees. I have even seen Quendas in winter crouched in holes partly filled with water.

J. A. W. Kirsch *(W. Aust. Nat.,* 10: 178) has discussed the burrowing of Quendas in captivity and suggests that this may be an adaptation to avoid excessive heat and to prevent moisture loss in very hot weather. Whether Quendas burrow under natural conditions in the Darling Range is doubtful. When the dense canopy along the watercourses has been destroyed by fire, individuals may burrow but are more likely to take advantage of existing hollows.

—JOHN DELL, Kalamunda.

A Diurnal Movement of White-faced Heron, *Ardea novae-hollandiae.* —During autumn, flocks of White-faced Herons fly over Harvey in an easterly direction during the morning and during the afternoon flocks may be seen passing over in a westerly direction. The line of flight over the town is just to the north of Uduc Road, the main business centre.

During the years of observance—1963 to 1970 inclusive—flights have developed during March, in some years, e.g. 1967 and 1970, quite early in the month. Flights continue throughout April, but wane during May, ceasing to be evident by the end of the month.

The eastward flight usually takes place between 0930 and 1030 hrs., but appears to get later as the season advances, e.g. the main flight at 1150 hrs. on 13 April 1966. The westward flight may be observed between 1430 and 1530 hrs. as a rule, with a tendency to become earlier